

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 024546
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:REGTRIBBIN:LA
APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP
AF/C:LDJUNIOR
AF/I:LSHURTLEFF
- --

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
AF ONLY

-----094922 310106Z /20
O 302356Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 024546

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM,BY

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

REF: STATE 18330

1. UNCLASSIFIED HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT FOLLOWS: QUOTE
SOCIAL CONFLICT BETWEEN THE MAJORITY (85 PERCENT) HUTU
ETHNIC GROUP AND THE MINORITY (14 PERCENT) TUTSI GROUP,
HAS DOMINATED THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF
BURUNDI. WHILE THERE ARE NO IMPORTANT LINGUISTIC OR
CULTURAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO ETHNIC ELEMENTS,
ANCIENT SOCIAL CLEAVAGES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO AN INTENSE --
AT TIMES FIERCE -- COMPETITIVE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL PRE-
DOMINANCE. AN ATTEMPTED COUP IN APRIL 1972 BY THE MAJORITY
HUTU AGAINST THE TUTSI GOVERNMENT RESULTED IN A GOVERNMENT-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 024546

SANCTIONED BLOODBATH THAT LEFT 150,000 DEAD AND AN EQUAL
NUMBER OF REFUGEES. THE NEW GOVERNMENT UNDER COLONEL JEAN
BAPTISTE BAGAZA HAS DEVELOPED A STRONG POLICY OF NATIONAL
RECONCILIATION AND REFORM DESIGNED TO INVOLVE THE HUTUS MUCH
MORE FULLY IN THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE
NATION.
-

1. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING
FREEDOM FROM:

A. TORTURE

TORTURE IS NOT PART OF POLICE INTERROGATION PRACTICES IN
BURUNDI. SOME BRUTALITY OCCURS DURING THE QUESTIONING
OF COMMON CRIMINALS, PARTICULARLY IF THEY HAVE THREATENED
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE POLICE OR USED FORCE IN THEIR
ALLEGED CRIMES.

B. CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR
PUNISHMENT

THE CURRENT SYSTEM DOES NOT IMPOSE CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DE-
GRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT. HOWEVER, THE ETHNIC
MASSACRES AND ATROCITIES OF THE MID-SIXTIES AND EARLY
SEVENTIES ARE A RECENT MEMORY AND THEIR SPECTER LINGERS.

PRISONS ARE CROWDED AND DIRTY, BUT PRISONERS ARE NORMALLY
LEFT TO THEMSELVES AND NOT ABUSED.

C. ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT

ARBITRARY ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT DO OCCUR, LARGELY BECAUSE
EXISTING LEGAL STANDARDS ARE POORLY UNDERSTOOD BY ENFORCE-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 024546

MENT AGENTS.

SEVERAL OFFICIALS OF THE FORMER REGIME REMAIN UNDER
HOUSE-ARREST. THERE ARE FEW, IF ANY, OTHER POLITICAL
PRISONERS.

D. DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL

BY LAW, ALL PERSONS ARRESTED MUST UNDERGO EXPEDITIOUS
PUBLIC TRIAL, BUT IN PRACTICE THE INEFFICIENCIES OF THE
JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND THE LACK OF TRAINED LEGAL PERSONNEL
OFTEN CAUSE LONG DELAYS AND A LACK OF FAIRNESS.

E. INVASION OF THE HOME

INVASION OF THE HOME IS RARE, BUT IT OCCASIONALLY HAPPENS
IN POLITICALLY-RELATED CASES.

2. GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES RELATING TO THE FULFILLMENT
OF SUCH VITAL NEEDS AS FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE
AND EDUCATION

THE REFORM-MINDED NEW GOVERNMENT HAS RECOGNIZED THAT PEACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND STABILITY REQUIRE MUCH MORE ATTENTION TO FULFILLING THE VITAL NEEDS OF ITS CITIZENS. THE NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN PLACES SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION, CONTROLLING POPULATION GROWTH AND AMELIORATING THE FULL RANGE OF GOVERNMENT SOCIAL SERVICES

CORRUPTION IS PART OF THE BURUNDIAN WAY OF LIFE, AS IN MANY POOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO REDUCE CORRUPT PRACTICES AND IS PREPARING A TRIAL OF SOME EIGHTY FORMER OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN ON CORRUPTION CHARGES. THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF HAS A REPUTATION FOR SCRUPULOUS HONESTY.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 024546

3. RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES INCLUDING:

A. FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, SPEECH, RELIGION, PRESS AND ASSEMBLY

FREEDOM OF RELIGION IS GENERALLY RESPECTED IN BURUNDI. HOWEVER, MISSIONARIES' INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIAL WORK WITH THE POOR WHO ARE INEVITABLY MAINLY HUTU, HAS ON OCCASION AROUSED GOVERNMENT SUSPICION, AND IN SOME INSTANCES HAS LED TO ACTUAL EXPULSIONS OF FOREIGN CHURCHMEN. STRICTLY RELIGIOUS WORK, HOWEVER, HAS NOT BEEN AFFECTED.

THERE IS NO FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY OR SPEECH FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES WITHOUT THE EXPRESS AUTHORIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE PRESS AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT ARE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED.

B. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN TRAVEL AND EMIGRATION

MOVEMENT IS FREE WITHIN BURUNDI, AS IS FOREIGN TRAVEL AND EMIGRATION.

C. FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT RULES BY DECREE, WITHOUT POPULAR REFERENDUM PROCEDURES. ONLY ONE POLITICAL PARTY -- THE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED UPRONA -- IS PERMITTED. POLITICAL ACTIVITY IS GENERALLY CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 024546

4. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE AND RECORD REGARDING INTERNATIONAL
AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED
VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT WAS VERY SENSITIVE TO OUTSIDE
INVESTIGATION OF THE ETHNIC SITUATION IN BURUNDI AFTER
THE COMMUNAL VIOLENCE OF 1972-73 AND REFUSED TO PERMIT
INVESTIGATION. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS NOT HAD TO FACE
THIS ISSUE, BUT IT WOULD LIKELY NOT WISH OUTSIDERS TO

ASSESS ITS PROGRAM ON ETHNIC RELATIONS. EVEN THOUGH IT IS
A POSITIVE PROGRAM, PUBLIC EXPOSURE AND WELL-INTENTIONED
AND HELPFUL CRITICISM WOULD TEND TO EXACERBATE TRADITIONAL
SENSITIVITIES. END QUOTE.

2. YOU SHOULD FORWARD COPY OF THIS REPORT TO GOVERNMENT
AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL.

3. COPY OF REPORT WILL BE GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR NZEYIMANA
IN WASHINGTON ON JANUARY 31. DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED
FRENCH TRANSLATION AND WILL CABLE IT SOONEST. COMPLETE
PACKAGE OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS HAS BEEN REQUESTED
AND WILL BE FORWARDED ASAP.

4. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.

5. ADD:"IN RURAL AREAS"AT END OF PARAGRAPH TWO
PAGE 2. VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, ANNUAL REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE024546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REGRIBBIN:LA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780045-0104
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978016/aaaaafdd.tel
Line Count: 204
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 229463e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 18330
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3769804
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT
TAGS: SHUM, BY
To: BUJUMBURA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/229463e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014